

**City of Kingston
Conservation Advisory Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 331-1682 x. 7339**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes
City Hall Conference Room 1
November 10, 2010**

Roll Call: 6:40 pm

In attendance:

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)
Felipa Gaudet (Secretary)
Judith Deming
Elizabeth Higgins
Allison Taylor

Guests:

Jennifer Schwartz-Berky, Casey Schwarz

Public Comment

1. Jennifer Schwartz-Berky shared about her student's research:
 - a. Students will do a survey of the shopkeepers regarding input for Complete Streets.
 - b. Agriculture –
 - i) Fresh food deserts- places where fresh food cannot be found within a mile.
 - ii) Edible schoolyards – schools utilize food that is grown on school grounds.
 - c. Urban forestry -
 - i) Will work with students in Bailey and George Washington Elementary schools – art projects about what they love about their neighborhoods and trees.
 - ii) Survey will go home with children for families to complete.
 - iii) On December 16th, the children will share their projects.
 - d. Most of the work is focused on midtown, as it has the greatest need. More input from community planning will be solicited through surveys. Students will walk with surveys.
 - e. Julie shared about Composting 101, an Alcoa grant for waste reduction
 - i) Participants will receive a compost bin and borrow a scale. They will weigh and compost for six months. 100 free compost bins will be given over two years.
 - ii) Rain barrel program will provide rain barrels and will measure water diverted from the storm system
 - iii) The programs will run every six months for two years. People who are interested can sign up for the next session.
 - f. Liz shared projects that compared markets – the market that had milk, bread, etc. in addition to local produce were more successful
 - g. Jennifer shared about a grant program focused on affordable housing and a leadership study.
 - h. Jennifer's students will share their projects on December 14th at 4:40. A time will be set for the December 16th meeting.

2. Casey shared what he learned from a meeting about the proposed power line under the Hudson River. Advocates from Scenic Hudson, Sierra Club shared that project is not green, as it had a negative environmental impact. It would involve flooding a large area in Canada. There is no access point for NY state energy to enter the line. Needs to be reviewed by the Public Service Commission. The corporation proposing the project will have to put up half a million dollars, but would get a couple of billion dollars from the federal government.
3. The NY State Climate Action Plan was made public today. Members will review.

Approval of Minutes

Approval October Meeting minutes- tabled until December

Old Business

1. Committee Reports:
 - a. Climate Pledge Subcommittees
 - i. Green Innovations – Melissa Everett has been putting out feelers – Guy Kempe, Nancy Donskoj– next meeting on Monday from 6-8 in City Hall
 - ii. Climate Change adaptation –Judith will be attending a combined sewer overflow meeting
 - iii. Other groups had yet to meet
 - b. Climate Analyst position –
 - i. The climate analyst position is fully funded through NYSERDA and the contract has been signed by the city, but the Common Council is taking issue with the creation of a new position.
 - ii. Liz asked if the city would be open to subcontracting through another organization. This plan would be considered if the position would not be hired through the city. Liz suggested Cooperative Extension as an organization.
 - c. City Animal Code Review Committee –
 - i. Agreement to disband the committee
 - d. Green Development Guidelines Committee
 - i. Julie and Gregg went to meeting and will begin to put together guidelines
2. Website/Social Media update
 - a. Nothing – Felipa will have the website live by end of December
3. CAC reappointments
 - a. Members must write a formal letter to the mayor to either stay on the council or resign.
 - b. Gregg, Alison, Julie, Liz and Sid's terms are up. Julie plans to stay on the CAC as the Chair. Alison will not be renewing. Gregg will be renewing. Liz will be renewing.
 - c. Felipa, Judith and Valeria's term will be up in the spring of 2011.
 - d. Julie will send out press release and members will think of people who may be interested in applying.
 - e. Felipa is interested in staying on as secretary if no one else wants the position.
4. Complete Streets – funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
 - a. Supposed to have formation of Complete Streets Council - A CAC member can sit on the Council.

New Business

1. Budget support - The two Environmental Educators' positions are being considered for cuts. CAC will write a letter of support for the positions.

Announcements/Communications

Next regular Monthly Board Meeting: December 8, 2010 from 6:00 to 7:00
EMC Meeting/Holiday Party December 8 at 7 pm

Liaison Meeting Reports

Allison will attend the General Government and Safety Committee meeting on November 22. Liz will attend the Planning Board meeting for December.

Casey is considering attending a meeting at Pace University.

Liz questioned whether the CAC is taking a position regarding the Esopus River. After raining, the upper Esopus gets turbid. The DEP Ashokan Reservoir releases water to decrease turbidity in the reservoir, which is bad for the fish. Then lower Esopus becomes very turbid. Many communities along the Lower Esopus want the city to regulate the flow of the water within the lower Esopus. Julie suggested the CAC send a letter expressing the CAC's concern and support of better management of resources. Felipa second. Liz will draft letter.

Julie made a motion for to adjourn. All in favor.

Adjournment: 8:30 pm